



Smith Rock
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group study guide

LUKE

J E S U S F O R E V E R Y O N E

**For the week of
8th of March 2020**



Who's day?

Our holidays all have names such as Memorial Day, President's Day, Labor Day, and some of them are even named after people such as Columbus Day and Martin Luther King Jr Day. But how does what we do on those days reflect the intention of the holiday? For instance President's Day has become known for its sales, and Memorial Day is the unofficial kick off for summer when everyone gets their camping gear out and heads off to the woods. What about the Sabbath Day, how does what we do on the Sabbath reflect Who's day we think it belongs to and honour the person who created it?

How do we interpret what we should do on this day?



On a Sabbath, while he was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked and ate some heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands. 2 But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?" 3 And Jesus answered them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: 4 how he entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those with him?" 5 And he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

6 On another Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was withered. 7 And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him. 8 But he knew their thoughts, and he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come and stand here." And he rose and stood there. 9 And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?"

10 And after looking around at them all he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored. 11 But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Luke 6:1-11 (ESV)

Commentary

So far in Luke's Gospel we have seen Jesus announce His ministry in the synagogue in Nazareth:

*18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,*

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4:18-19 (ESV)

This resulted in the attempt to kill Him as He told His audience this scripture had been fulfilled in their hearing. Later in Capernaum he taught on the Sabbath and people were "astonished at His teaching, for His word possessed authority." (Luke 4:32). Then Jesus cast a demon out of a man in the synagogue, and the witnesses had a different reaction than those of Nazareth as "they were they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!"

ISRAEL AT THE TIME OF JESUS

1ST CENTURY AD



37 And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region. Luke 4:36-37(ESV)

Those reports attracted the attention of the Pharisees and the teachers who descended on Jesus to see what He was all about. What was He up to, was He keeping the law? They were concerned. They witness Jesus heal a man lowered through the roof of a house and although they question His forgiving the man's sin they couldn't argue with him getting up and walking, but this wasn't on the Sabbath. They then questioned, Jesus' going to a party with sinners. But now in this text in their interpretation of Jesus' actions they witness Him break the law of the Sabbath.

But what exactly were you allowed to do on the Sabbath?

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Deuteronomy 5:12–15 (ESV)

The whole question revolved around what in their minds constituted work and their fear of breaking the law and finding themselves on the wrong side of God. Israel had gone down that road before and they were determined it was not going to happen again and so over the years they had elaborated on and defined exactly what constituted work and what didn't, and this was found in the Talmud, which consisted of two books (

the Mishnah and the Gemara) of commentary on the law. Picking and eating grain was forbidden as it would have involved “reaping, threshing and grinding - all forbidden on the Sabbath. Healing a paralysed man’s hand was not a matter of life or death and that work was forbidden to as it was unnecessary.

Jesus’ refutation of the “their” law was to use the example of David who transgressed the law by eating the bread of presence from the tabernacle which was set aside only for the priests to eat, because his need and his men’s warranted it (1 Samuel 2:1-6). Have you not read this Jesus asked them? The Sabbath is not to be reduced to a list of what you can and can’t do, and ultimately Jesus determines the nature of the Sabbath observance.

Again in the Synagogue Jesus asks the Pharisees “if it is lawful on the Sabbath to to do good or harm, to save life or to destroy it?” The word save has in mind a selfless concern for other people and their well being and rescuing them from detrimental circumstances. Jesus heals the man’s hand and “saves” him from his circumstances and restores his hand to full use. Jesus is in the business of restoring creation:

19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

Romans 8:19–21 (ESV)

Jesus’ restoration will bring God’s creation back to the first Sabbath when God rested because everything was perfect.

Group Study

Open the group with prayer and discuss how you have used your application from last week's study in your life, and what you have learned from it.

Read the following:

To help explain the challenges people in the West face reading the Bible, authors E. Randolph Richards and Brandon J. O'Brien refer to a social experiment in "The Forgotten Famine" by Mark Allan Powell.

Powell had twelve students in a seminary class read the story of the prodigal son from Luke's Gospel, then close their Bibles and retell the story as faithfully as possible to a partner. None of the twelve American seminary students mentioned the famine in Luke 15:14, which precipitates the son's eventual return. Powell then had one hundred people participate in the same experiment and the results revealed that only six of the one hundred mentioned the famine. The "famine-forgetters," as Powell called them, had only one thing in common: they were from the United States.

Later Powell tried the experiment in St. Petersburg, Russia. He gathered fifty participants to read and retell the prodigal son story. This time an overwhelming forty-two of the fifty participants mentioned the famine. Why? Just seventy years before, 670,000 people died of starvation after a Nazi German siege of the capital city began a three-year famine. Famine was very much a part of the history and imagination of the Russian participants.

E. Randolph Richards and Brandon J. O'Brien, Misreading Scripture With Western Eyes, (IVP, 2012), page 14; submitted by Van Morris, Mt. Washington, Kentucky

What “feasts” or “famines” in your background do you think play into how you interpret the Bible?

Read Genesis 2:1-3

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

What do you think that first Sabbath must have been like?

Did God just stop doing anything on the Sabbath?

What do you think the world around us thinks about the Sabbath?

How does your observation of the Lord’s Day reflect Jesus being Lord of the Sabbath?

What do you struggle most with in keeping the Sabbath holy?

Under the law everyone got the Sabbath of, stemming from Israel’s release from slavery in Egypt so not even slaves had to work on the Sabbath. In our culture of 24/7 how can we make sure everyone gets a Sabbath rest?

Personal study time

Read the Hebrews Chapter four and reflect on the following questions.

Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. 2 For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. 3 For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said,

“As I swore in my wrath,

‘They shall not enter my rest,’ ”

although his works were finished from the foundation of the world.

4 For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way:

“And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.” 5 And again in this passage he said,

“They shall not enter my rest.”

6 Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, 7 again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted,

“Today, if you hear his voice,

do not harden your hearts.”

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. 9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, 10 for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. 14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:1–16 (ESV)

Many of the people failed to enter God's rest, why? (V2)

For those who did enter the Promised Land why wasn't it the final rest? (V 8)

Who is the rest the author speaks about (V9)

How can we know we have entered Jesus' rest? (V 10)

**If we have entered the rest what do we need to strive
for?(V11)**

Why can we have confidence in our rest? (V 14-16)

KIDS CORNER



God Is Bigger than We Think

1. Why do we need rest?

Sometimes we get the idea that rest is a bad thing, it is a boring thing because we just like to be busy. We are busy at school learning about different subjects, we are busy after school playing a sport or part of a club like 4H. Perhaps you look at the adults around you and see how busy they are always rushing from place to place. But after a long busy day we need rest, and we need to sleep so our bodies can get recharged and we can be ready to go the next day.

When God created the heavens and the earth He did so 6 days and on the seventh He rested, and God wants us to imitate Him and rest on the seventh day too which is

called the Sabbath. Does that mean we lie down and sleep? What kind of rest?

Our rest is found when we spend time focusing on God by going to church and worshiping and being with God's people, and coming to Jesus with all our worries and our fears. Jesus said for us to come to Him when we are weary and troubled and give them to Him.

2. What would you like to give Jesus so you can rest?

